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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,844	12/03/2004	Mikko Veikkolainen	AWEK 3167	7448
7812 7590 01/08/2008 SMITH-HILL AND BEDELL, P.C. 16100 NW CORNELL ROAD, SUITE 220 BEAVERTON, OR 97006			EXAMINER FLORES SANCHEZ, OMAR	
			ART UNIT 3724	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/08/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/516,844

Applicant(s)

VEIKKOLAINEN ET AL.

Examiner

Omar Flores-Sánchez

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 10/03/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clarino et al. (5,831,857) in view of Bruder et al. (5,258,917).

Clarino et al. discloses the method substantially as claimed including the step of: placing the piece to be cut on a cutting surface located within the recording area (see Fig. 6), recording an image of the piece (see Fig. 3), providing information regarding outlines of the piece to a positioning system (col. 9, lines 25-42), selecting at least one type of a small part and employing the positioning system to place a desired number of instances (see Fig. 3-4), employing the control system to determine cutting parameters (see Fig. 4), and cutting the piece (see Fig. 8), positioning the sheet automatically to optimize the cutting path (see Fig. 4). Also, Clarino et al. discloses the claimed invention except that a digitizing puck/light source (see col. 4, lines 65-66) instead of camera means/laser bar. Bruder et al. shows that camera means/laser bar (5 and 6) (see col. 3, lines 24-26) is equivalent structure known in the art. Therefore, because these two recording image device were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one

of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute a digitizing puck for camera means. Clarino et al. is capable of determining a starting point of the cutting and the cutting paths automatically or by operator-aided means. Clarino et al. discloses positioning the sheet automatically to optimize the cutting path (see col. 4, lines 1-4). The coordinate controlled cutter 69 of Clarino et al. is capable of changing the operation of the cutting apparatus from incremental to absolute coordinate system.

4. Claims 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clarino et al. (5,831,857) in view of Bruder et al. (5,258,917) as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Scott (6,246,025 B1).

The modified device of Clarino et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for a thermal controlled cutting machine. However, Scott teaches the use of a thermal controlled cutting machine 30 for the purpose of cutting greater thicknesses metal material (see col. 2, lines 20-44). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Clarino et al. by providing the thermal controlled cutting machine as taught by Scott in order to obtain a device that cuts greater thicknesses metal material.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Flores-Sánchez whose telephone number is 571-272-4507. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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1/3/2008


BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER